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ARTISTCONTEMPORARY FOR UFOLOGI



THE
DANISH
'AIRSHIP'
OF 1908

New Series 9 (Whole Number 43)

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MUFOB (Metempirical UFO Bulletin) is an informal journal, devoted to ufology and related subjects. It is published independently by the Editors, and has no connection with any other UFO journal or group. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily shared by the Editors.

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editorial notes

Readers may remember our earlier commendation of the American magazine Official UFO. Although a commercially produced publication, its editor, Bernard O'Connor was nonetheless making an effort to eschew sensationalism and expose the many misrepresentations that cloud ufology. Articles were printed which exposed techniques of faking photographs, provided alternative explanations for many of the alleged UFO sightings by astronauts, and discussed the implications of the 'new ufologies'. After Mr O'Connor's resignation a new editor was appointed who resigned after only one issue, following a disagreement with publisher Myton Fass who told him the magazine was intended solely as 'entertainment'.

After this the standard of content went steadily downhill, presumably largely owing to the attitude of Fass. Although the new editor, Dennis Hauck, still printed some interesting articles, such as George Early's excellent "UFO Bookshelf" column and a discussion of computer enhancement of photographs, the contents came to consist more and more of what we had once praised Official UFO for avoiding: namely dubious photographs, half baked theorising, and highly inaccurate rehashes of famous cases. We now learn (from APRO Bulletin and MUFON News, of which Hauck is also editor) that Mr Hauck has resigned after discovering that a long and prominently featured letter describing an 'interrupted journey' type of case was a fabrication by the publisher. His place was taken by a new editor who has so far, perhaps wisely, chosen to remain anonymous.

In the circumstances we can only advise our readers to avoid this magazine, whose contents are now worthless except to those interested in the world of the UFO cultist, and associate ourselves with the warning of APRO that any ufologists who render Official UFO assistance are making themselves party to fraud. (RS)

The next issue of MUFOB will mark the tenth anniversary of the first issue of the then Mersey-side UFO Bulletin, edited by John Harney. Over the intervening years, MUFOB has gained something of a reputation as a controversial and radical voice in ufology. In our 'Jubilee' number we hope to take a retrospective view of some of the high spots of the past decade, as well as attempting a prospective view of the next ten years. We would like to hear from our readers on both of these aspects, and publish some of your comments. We also intend to use our anniversary as an excuse to expand MUFOB to a regular twenty pages.

FACTS, FRAUD, AND FAIRYTALES

JOHN RIMMER

In recent articles in this Bulletin (1), Peter Rogerson has promoted the idea that some features of the UFO phenomenon can be seen as works of 'naive art', through which percipients may externalise subconscious and semi-conscious ideas and beliefs. Such a theory acknowledges the ambiguous and equivocal borderlines between real UFO experiences, exposed and admitted hoaxes, and totally fictional experiences. In each case the stimulus for the expression would be the same: a need to create an external, concrete experience in order to identify or communicate a nebulous, and in many cases almost totally non-understood, emotional or philosophical feeling. Only in deliberate works of fiction or imaginative art does this expression manifest itself in a way which is acceptable to society at large.

When these artistic visions are enacted in the form of a 'real' UFO experience, they are less widely accepted than the legitimate forms of artistic expression; but are still acceptable to a variety of specialist students, who will generally tend to see such events in the framework of 'consensus' reality. In the UFO context this usually involves a straightforward acceptance of the extraterrestrial hypothesis, or at least some external influence on the human brain. However, the hoax falls beyond the pale of even these specialist students, who see it merely as a stumbling block in the investigation of real events, to be discarded as soon as it is identified. The out-and-out work of fiction will not even be subject to any consideration by the specialists, who would dismiss it as being entirely without objective value in the real world.

If however we consider fiction, hoax, and real experience as different parts of a spectrum of experience, a new set of patterns begins to emerge. Loren Gross has pointed out the similarities between some American science fiction stories of the thirties and forties, and many of the ostensibly genuine contact stories of later years. One in particular (2) depicts a car stoppage scenario with many of the details which have become familiar from many subsequent reports. Yet it would be impossible that any significant proportion of the people involved in these cases could have read the story in the small circulation SF magazine where it appeared. The science fiction story is a culturally-approved 'art-form' in which many philosophical ideas of the nature of

power and energy, man's relationship to machine etc., can be expressed and debated in a popularly understandable fashion. Due to the general cultural environment in which most potential UFO percipients live (even in fairly remote parts of the world) these concepts and ethical questions are widespread in the human psyche, in more or less coherent forms. Consequently, from time to time they will require some form of external expression from the individuals who ponder them. In cases where either the intellectual ability, or the cultural opportunities available to the person attempting this self-expression are inadequate for this to take a generally acceptable format, it may emerge in a manner only fragmentarily understood by the 'artist' himself.

Some ufologists (sadly not as many as one would hope, especially in this country) are beginning to realise that 'subjective' UFO experiences are of equal validity to the so-called 'objective' cases (3). They no longer see the psychological examination of witnesses as a way of sorting out the 'reliable' from the 'unreliable' witnesses, so that they can get on with the real job of studying the hard physical evidence. However this more inclusive attitude has not yet extended to the 'hoax' reports, which are still treated as a nuisance, getting in the way of serious research. Yet in many cases these hoaxes may be desperate attempts to make some sense of the overwhelming barrage of emotional, intellectual, psychic and cultural impressions that are absorbed into the long-suffering human brain.

Consider the remarkable story which came out of Peru in 1965, and was reported in FSR two years later (4). A restaurant proprietress in the La Victoria district of Lima reported that "a little green man" (her literal description) with one eye in the centre of his forehead had come into her restaurant and ordered a chicken, "with plenty of red pepper and saffron". The proprietress, Señora Dora Nakamura, claimed that despite her astonishment she managed to serve up the order, to be paid in strange coins with undecipherable hieroglyphics on them. An obvious hoax, and indeed when a local UFO investigation group tried to follow up the story they were informed that Señora Nakamura was in "delicate health" and did not wish to say any more about the matter, admitting that it was a hoax.

And that, to most ufo investigators, is that. But consider for a moment what could have prompted such a hoax. Señora Nakamura must have realised that such a claim could only have led to extreme ridicule. To willingly court such derision seems almost masochistic. On a conscious level she must have realised that the hoax would never be even half-way acceptable - the strange coins were presumably never offered in evidence. Her retreat from the consequences of her act through ill-health, whether 'real' or psychosomatic, suggests that she could not have intended her hoax as a joke, perhaps to publicise the quality of her chicken and green peppers (although one can perhaps visualise a successful advertising campaign based on the theme "They'll travel light years for a Nakamura chicken dinner!").

It seems scarcely imaginable what inner conflicts, what agonies of a confused mind, what mental struggles could force a person to perpetrate such an enormity. Yet in a more skilled, perhaps more educated, individual with a greater capacity for conscious self expression, could they not have emerged as a powerful surrealist painting or poem? Are they not the same inner forces which, in a different type of personality produce a bizarre UFO contact report, perhaps not much less absurd than Dora Nakamura's hoax; but which, because it is believed in literally by the percipient, is accepted as a legitimate object of investigation by ufologists?

There is a need therefore for some serious and detailed study of hoaxes, on a level with the sensitive and carefully monitored investigations that are at last beginning with the so-called 'subjective' percipients.

If the reaction of most students of our subject towards hoaxes is simply to unmask then discard them, it is inevitable that their reaction to out-and-out fiction is even simpler. They just do not regard it as any part at all of the material they are studying. Yet, if our model of the percipient and hoaxer externalising, with varying degrees of conscious control, a confusing welter of internal feelings and imagery is valid, then the artist and writer, producing overtly 'imaginative' fiction from the same internal stimuli, is manifestly part of the same phenomenon, and worthy of similar study.

Up to now the study of artistic fiction (5) has been through a series of somewhat conventionalised critical attitudes - 'fine art' criticism, Eng. Lit., etc. As most artistic enterprise is designed to fall within the framework of one or other of these critical apparatus, the result is something of a closed-shop, and potentially valuable alternative analytical structures are seldom utilised. It is, for instance, only quite recently that art has been subjected to any sort of political analysis. So, just as it is now generally accepted that art and literature are influenced by, and in some cases entirely derived from, their political and social background, we must recognise that much of the material which up to now has summarily been dismissed as

'fiction' is evolved from the same 'cultural primaevial soup' as our UFO reports and hoaxes. This is perhaps most evident in the field of folklore and mythology, which are increasingly intensively studied to reveal many of the archetypes which structure the UFO experience. This sort of inclusive approach is more readily accepted with myth and folklore, as they are obviously the crystallisation of a collectivity of experience, dream, and impression. What is not so easy to accept is that the artistic vision of one person can, as in the case of the SF story unearthed by Loren Gross, be equally valid as an expression of a collective mythic experience.

Yet how else can we explain the fascination that a writer like J R R Tolkien has for so many people? Here a writer of considerable talent has created a vast, mythical world in a series of compulsively readable works of avowed fiction. Yet is his achievement so different, except in the manner of its execution, from someone like Adamski, who feeling the same urges for sub-creation produces as potentially great a vision in a series of botched-up, half believed in hoaxes? Eventually getting drawn into his own creation to the point of incorporating it into his conscious world-view, and losing sight of its fictional origins. In a fascinating account of a conversation with Tolkien, his biographer Carpenter (6) comments that whenever questioned about a point of detail in any of his works, the author would answer in his self-created role as 'translator' of a corpus of mythological writings, rather than as author of a work of fiction. Yet here there is obviously no question of 'hoaxing' as there was when Adamski replied to questions in the role of 'reporter' rather than 'author'. Whereas a person like Tolkien, with a secure intellectual foundation in the consensus world view could regard his involvement in his own sub-creation as a literary joke (albeit one of considerable significance to himself); Adamski, without such a secure world-view, could easily be drawn irretrievably into a Magonia of his own making.

When we examine Tolkien's world it is temptingly easy to see the parallels with Magonia. His concept of the Valar, for instance, as demiurgical entities which, from their land of Valinor, oversee the actions of men and the other beings of Middle-Earth with an occasional nudge and a shove and a word of advice, echoes not only the Norns and the Fata of Northern and Classical mythology, but also the benevolent space brothers of the contactees. The Valar like in a remote other-world, now "removed from the circles of this world" and reached only by mysterious ships crewed by the Elves, tall and beautiful immortals. Yet in the remote past of Tolkien's First Age, Valinor was in more direct contact with mortal lands, its inhabitants taking a more direct (and sometimes disastrous) part in its affairs. Can we see here a working of the same archetypal themes that in other hands have resulted in the Ancient Astronaut myth? The Old Gods that have left us as the result of the breaking of a great taboo. In Tolkien's

case this is the attempted invasion of the Blessed Realm by the men of Numenor/Atlantis. And does it matter too much whether this universally felt myth is expressed in a great work of imaginative fiction; or as a message from an apparently real spaceman; or as a lucrative hoax in some paperback potboiler. It is certainly the same ore that is being mined, and it is cabale of being refined and fashioned into a Faberge Egg or an old tin can!

Yet we must realise that a great deal of the background to Tolkien's work is drawn quite directly and consciously from a commonly-held store of mythical imagery. His most recently published work, *The Silmarillion*, (7) outlines the creation and remote history of the world in which the later stories of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* take place. In a way it is the mythology of his mythological world. Like the great legends it echoes, the *Silmarillion* is a collection of stories, they are not necessarily consecutive or consistent in style and content; they are sometimes repetitive. There is not the formal literary or narrative structure of his two earlier published works, and this has aroused the wrath of the critics in the literary journals who insist on treating Tolkien's prose and verse with the conventions of the "English Literature" syllabus. The mythologists and ufologist, of course, regard it as "just fiction" and will have nothing to do with it.

Tolkien's consciously created myth-world, like the contactees' Magonia, and the hoaxer's imaginary universe, is fundamentally neo-Manichean, with the vast opposing forces of the Valar and Morgoth/Sauron; neither capable of being totally destroyed. The peoples of Middle-Earth are largely deprived of ultimate control over their destinies, having to throw in their fate with whichever of the Cosmic Forces they choose to align themselves. The hopelessness of individuals in the face of such forces is a recurrent theme in contact lore, forming the raison d'être for such borderline sects as the Aetherius Society, and has a strong appeal to such ufologists as Gordon Greighton who explicitly see mankind as 'belonging' to one side or other in the eternal battle. Tolkien's Christian background and one suspects, his fundamentally hopeful character, prompted him to give the 'good' forces the advantage in the struggle. But it is only a very slight advantage, and the evil of The Enemy may break through at any moment. In the darker and more insecure world of the contactees and the hoaxer the advantage is not always so clear. The eternal battle, as revealed for instance in the books of John Keel, is for them a terrifying cliffhanger where, like Middle-Earth's hobbits, mankind can only sit and await its destiny.

* * * * *

It is often claimed when examining details of a reported UFO experience that the percipient must be genuine, as he is apparently able to give details, similar to those occurring in other reports, but which have never been given wide

media coverage. In reports on percipients the observation is often made that the alleged witness had never read any books on UFOs, and was totally unacquainted with the literature of the subject. These facts are adduced as evidence that the experience was 'real'. On reflection though, why should it be so readily assumed that a hoaxer is incapable of making-up (perhaps 'creating' is a better word?) a coherent mythology from the store of cultural and psychological archetypes that we are surrounded with from birth? The difference between hoaxer and genuine contactee may be very slight. Indeed, it could be argued that the hoaxer, through having to some degree the ability to consciously manipulate elements of myth, is of a higher intellectual stature than the genuine percipient who finds them so disturbing and confusing that he is only capable of manipulating them on a subconscious level. Jung has suggested (8) that it is in the more unimaginative personality that the subconscious, unable to break through the 'cool judgement' and 'critical reason' of the conscious mind is forced to produce a vivid external projection of its contents before they will be taken not of. It is precisely because percipients of these 'projections' are noted for their 'solid common-sense' that they are taken quite literally by those ufologists determined to find some external stimulus for the phenomenon. It is those more imaginative and creative people who are able to tap directly the contents of their subconscious mind, externalising its revelations in the form of deliberately produced fiction or hoax, who are ignored or vilified by the ufological establishment. We must recognise that it is essential for any understanding of the UFO phenomenon to examine not only the 'genuine' reports, which are just one manifestation of this collection of archetypes, but also the other ways in which these constants emerge... be it as hoax, or in the hands of a skilled artist as a work of art.

Let us look for a moment at one way in which the ephemeral borderline between fiction and genuine experience has been crossed. In 1914 the author Arthur Machen wrote a short story called *The Bowmen*. In it he described how British troops in the retreat from Mons were joined by the ghostly forms of St George and the bowmen of Agincourt, who helped them hold out against the German advance. After this story was published in the London *Evening News* rumours circulated that soldiers involved in the action at Mons had indeed seen not only bowmen, but cavalry, the figures of saints and angels, and knight in armour fighting alongside them. At first Machen thought that these stories were the result of his original tale. However a book published later (9) gave eyewitness accounts of incidents which had apparently been reported before Machen's story was published. In an incident such as this there are a number of interpretations which may be put on the facts. Firstly, it is not unnatural that the soldiers of a retreating army would be comforted by the thought of an 'Heavenly Host'

guarding them. English soldiers would be particularly responsive to such patriotic imagery as St George, Agincourt, etc. Amid the horrors of the First World War the desire for such spiritual intercession would be so strong in the minds of soldiers that, unable to find expression in any more 'rational' way, it was projected externally in the form of a memorable vision. Machen, more remote from the grim reality, and as a writer possessing an acceptable way of expressing these deep emotional responses, creates an equally memorable 'fiction' from the same set of stimuli. Yet this may be an oversimplification. It would appear that prior to the publication of Machen's story there were no generally circulating rumours of such spiritual intervention. Indeed, a year after the original story was published it had become so popular that Machen issued it as a booklet, adding a note that he believed that the subsequent rumours were a result of his story. The book mentioned above was an attempt to refute this. Are we to conclude then that the reports made by soldiers after publication of *The Bowmen* were hoaxes? It seems unlikely that soldiers who had suffered through such harrowing events would wish to lie about it in such a way. Perhaps we should consider the possibility of a retrospectively induced memory, in which people, finding their unarticulated wishes and dreams expressed in such a graphic and moving way as Machen's story, take it to themselves and are impelled quite genuinely to remember events that never took place? Could it then be that with the continuing diffusion of the UFO myth throughout society, many people are finding it a suitable medium for the expression of their own personal hopes and fears, and are also 'remembering' with every degree of verisimilitude events which never took place?

Just as, in the First World War, what now

letters

Dear John,

I found Alan Sharp's article in MUFOB, Autumn 1977, interesting but unconvincing. Are we to assume that such diverse geographical locations as California, New Mexico and Brazil all experience the same chill, damp Octobers and Novembers as we do in Northern Europe? And of course the failure of car electrical systems is only half the story. If the failure is due to lack of adequate maintenance and cold, damp weather, why should these electrical systems be self-repairing on the termination of the incident?

But not only are UFOs credited with electrical system failures; they are also said to have pitted paintwork, changed the colour of cars, and to have taken control of vehicles, moving them off the road onto the verge, and levitating them. To say nothing of those re-

seem the rather naive patriotic visions of Arthur Machen helped crystallise a mood of the time; so perhaps today does Tolkien's more troubled cosmic vision express today's *zeitgeist*. It delves those hidden realms, that in the minds of UFO percipients bring forth a gallery of elvish, orkish and dwarvish entities that still stalk a troubled and divided middle-earth. Tolkien's works are a beautiful and skillfully wrought evocation of the dreams, fears and hopes of man. It is here that the answer to the UFO mystery lies. A writer like Tolkien can study and understand these things, and use them to create a great and haunting work of 'fiction'; yet fiction which is true enough to find a greater response in the hearts and minds of the public than that of almost any other writer this century.

REFERENCES:

1. "A panorama of ufological visions", MUFOB NS3, page 11; "Doves are just middle-class pigeons", MUFOB NS7, page 3.
2. GROSS, Loren. *Charles Fort, the Fortean Society and UFOs*. Privately published, 1976.
3. A welcome exception to this general rule is Randle and Warrington's study of the "Garry" case.
4. *Flying Saucer Review*, 13, 6, page 32.
5. I use the word 'fiction' to include all forms of imaginative art, as well as just literature; including poetry, symbolist and abstract painting, music and song, non-realist drama, etc.
6. CARPENTER
7. TOLKIEN, J R R. *The Silmarillion*. George Allen and Unwin, 1977.
8. JUNG, C G. *Flying Saucers*. Routledge Kegan Paul, 1977. See Book Reviews this issue.
9. BEGBIE, Harold. *On the Side of the Angels*.

ports of instantaneous teleportation over several hundred miles; and the report of the couple driving across Africa at night, who had the expected scenery replaced by a 'dream world' through which they progressed in a semi-somnambulistic state, and found at the end of their journey that their car's fuel consumption was a fraction of what would have been expected.

The interaction of the UFO and the automobile makes a fascinating study and perhaps one day I, or someone else, will find the time to write a dissertation on this theme. But at present Alan Sharp's article simply confirms my non-mathematical prejudice that statistics are of little value when applied to the UFO phenomenon.

Yours
Colin Bord,
London W9.

(In fairness to Alan Sharp's thesis, we must point out to our readers the words of the well-known song 'The Lady is a tramp', which state, "she hates California, it's cold and it's damp...! Ed.)

intcat

AN INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE OF TYPE I UFO RECORDS

Compiled by Peter Rogerson

Information for, and comments on, this catalogue should be sent to:

PETER ROGERSON, 8 BRADDON AVENUE, URMSTON, MANCHESTER, M31 1UE, ENGLAND

655 16 November 1956 Morning
LEMMON (SOUTH DAKOTA) A bright object, changing colours, appx. 1m diam., was seen hovering at 8m alt. near Lemmon Depot. It swooped low over stockyards and sped away. Suddenly a loud, thunder like noise was heard. A telegraph operator, Calvin Goetz tried to call the next station, but found the railroad phones and the automatic block system "mysteriously dead". The telegrapher roused the linemen, but he found the lines in order again. Western Union service was also disrupted, and the explosion had been heard all the way to Baker, Montana. (Barry Greenwood - *Saucers*, winter 56/7, p15)

656 20 November 1956. 1820 hrs
BRUMUNDAL (NORWAY) 4 workers, including Asbjørn Soerland, observed an object which at times was at such low altitude as to be seen behind some trees. It was not luminous but sent out red, white and green flashes. It followed an erratic course, circling up and down. By 1830hrs the object had risen higher, and a second object further north was also visible, also flashing in different colours. (FSR 3,1, p.9 - *Verdens Gang* 24/Nov 56 :: Round-Up, p.102)

657 25 November 1956 0043 hrs
PIERRE (SOUTH DAKOTA) Patrolman Don Kelm, and dispatcher Jack Peters of the State Police Radio system were driving down Highway 34, 37km east of Pierre searching for a stolen car, when they encountered a machine shaped like "half an eggshell with a round bottom" hovering 15-30m above a ditch. The machine, the size of an average car, was illuminating the highway with a deep red light it was giving off. This turned to light red as it rose to 200m. The officers then pursued the object for about 9.5km remaining about 1.5km behind it. Peters took several photographs of the object, which on enlargement showed an oval shape with protruberances, about three times the apparent diam. of the moon. (Olsen - 3-50 - CRIFO 3,10,p.2 - *Willaston Herald* nd. - Minneapolis *Star*, 28 Nov 56 reproduces photos :: FSR 3,1,p.7 :: Anatomy 1b 135+ Round Up p.103+Wilkins 1c,p.313 - All quoting FSR)

658 28 November 1956
SHEFFORD nr BIGGLESWADE (BEDFORDSHIRE, ENG.) Shopkeeper John Whitworth claimed that an "unusual visitor" had entered his shop and asked "Do you want to see a flying saucer?" As suggested, Mr Whitworth drove on the night of the 28th to an isolated spot near Biggleswade where a circular ob-

ject resembling a child's spinning top, with lighted portholes and a blue light on top, descended low. When a train came along the craft took off at speed. The only odd feature about the original visitor was his exceptionally high forehead. A year later this person returned, and as a result Whitworth and a convoy of pressmen went out to the spot (2 Dec 1957). Nothing happened, but when they returned home an anonymous phone caller reprimanded him for taking such a crowd. (FSR 4,3,p.24 :: Dennis Llewellyn - *The People* 4 May 58)

659 30 November 1956 1200 hrs
PETERSBURG (INDIANA) Mechanic Charles Mallot (17) was testing a truck on HW 61, 5km south of here, when he heard a loud noise behind him, like a threshing machine. A disclike object 5m diam., 2m thick was rising from behind some woods about 1km SE of the highway. At 45m alt. it became silent then sped NE at great speed. (Olsen 3-50 - CRIFO 3,11,p.3 - Frank Edwards)

660 11 December 1956 2015 hrs
BLUBBERHOUSES MOOR (WEST YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND) Workmates Peter Lawson (21) and Alan Owen (17) were motorcycling between Bolton Abbey and Addingham when the sky was lit by a brilliant green sphere, 6m diam., hovering at 600m. The light was so bright that they switched off their cycle lamps. After about 2 mins the object, from which were coming bright green and yellow flames, descended slowly, apparently landing behind a hill. The sky was illuminated for some distance. Miss Gwen Verity of Grassing independently saw the object descend from her house. (FSR 3,1,p.8)

661 15 December 1956 1100 hrs
DERRY (NEW HAMPSHIRE) Retired carriage builder Alfred G Horne was picking Xmas trees in a wood nr. Rt 28 when he glanced up and saw only 60m away, a dwarf. The being was 60cm tall, green coloured, high domed head, ears like a bloodhound, with eyes like a snake with a film over them. It had no nose just two holes, narrow sloping shoulders with short arms which ended in stumps of hands, short legs, and his feet appeared to have no toes. It appeared to be naked, the wrinkled green skin resembling elephant hide. Horne observed the being for about 20 mins. then attempted to catch it. The dwarf made a screeching sound which made Horne flee in terror. In an earlier account Horne said the creature vanished when he bent down to pick up a bundle. (Ted Bloecher - *Letters from Horne* to Walter W Webb, 20 Sep 62 and 4 Nov 62)

662 17 December 1956 2100 hrs
CONASHAUGH (PENNSYLVANIA) Mrs Marie Carrow (68) was concerned if there were any deer left after the heavy shooting of the last day of the hunting season, as she was very fond of them, the deer frequenting her rural home. She went out with her flashlight to look for them. A few paces from her house the light illuminated two men standing on the lawn close together, arms by their sides, about 45m away facing her. They were standing near garden stakes against which their height could be measured. One was 1.05m tall, the other 90cm. Mrs Carrow had them in her beam for about 3 mins. She could see that the taller one was slender, the

other stocky. They were dressed alike in close-fitting suits made of shiny, silvery material which glistened in the light. Through the closely fitting helmets she could see fair complexioned faces. The uniform resembled aluminium foil, and she could see that they wore gloves and shoes. They were well proportioned with good muscular development. After they remained stationary for some minutes, Mrs Carrow panicked and ran inside to get her husband. He was ininterested. Some 15 mins later she ventured out alone, but the beings were not to be seen. The next morning she found an area of pressed down grass, but thought it could have been caused by cows. At 2100 hrs that night two friends at Dingman's Ferry had seen a large luminous object speed in a westerly direction. (FSR 15, 5, p.16 — Berthold Schwarz — Pike County Dispatch, 17 Apr 58 — J Edson Myer)

663 28 December 1956 Early morning
WICKFORD (ESSEX, ENGLAND) Maurice Waddops (22) a former railway fireman went out early to shoot a sparrowhawk with his A40 shotgun. Through the mist he saw a circular object overhead (est. 40m alt.) "six times the size of a penny held at arms length" Waddops fled to a clearing, loaded and fired his gun. The shot hit against the metal craft, rebounding and hitting him in the chest. The object hovered over the treetops for 4-5 mins, after which it shot away westward towards London. (Dennis Llewellyn — Empire News, 6 Jan 57) TYPE I STATUS PERHAPS MARGINAL.

ADDITIONS & AMENDMENTS

Additional cases are given the number of the case that immediately preceded them, followed by an alphabetical suffix.

553(A) 4 February 1955 1925 hrs
CERAT (PYRENEES ORIENTALES, FRANCE) Mrs Porta was riding from work on her motor cycle when she caught sight of a light in the cypress grove on the right of the road. On passing the trees she saw, 50m from the road, a group of 4 rectangular blue-green lights with curved edges, which seemed to be at 1.5m alt. 50m further along she encountered two motionless men. As her head lights caught only their bodies she did not see any detail, although she got the impression they were rather tall. Shocked, she accelerated home. The incident took place 1.5km from Cerat. (Alain Gamard — LDLN no. 100bis)

555 Reference should read (B19 — Antonia Ribera)

566 The witnesses name was Jean Bastide Collange. Add that at one point he tried to touch the object. Further references are Radio Europa Channel One, 4 June 55 :: Presse de Clermand Ferrand, n.d.)

567 Reference is now B20.

606 This case is actually September 1956, and should thus be re-numbered 643(A)

617 Reference should be B21.

632 Witness's name was Jose de Freitas Guimaraes.

632(A) Summer 1956 Night
WIMBEUX (PAS DE CALAIS, FRANCE) Mr Lepretre was returning to Bolougne from his night work at Wimereux, when at a place called "La Peterie" he saw a landed object and humanoid 1-1.2m tall. The witness was so afraid that he ran away and never went past that spot again. The case was never investigated and is known only through hearsay. The witness is now dead. (Gamard — LDLN files — Brigitte Damien)

634(A) 11 July 1956
SETE-PONT DE VIRLA (HERAULT, FRANCE) Two workmen and some divers working near the bridge were surprised by the appearance of a red coloured metallic object which emerged from the canal, trailing flames 20m long. The object appeared and disappeared many times on the surface of the water. (Bonabot — Le Courrier Interplanetaire 19, p.1)

636 Witness named Todd not Ted.

639(A) 8 August 1956 2300 hrs
PERTHUS nt PERPIGNAN (PYRENEES ORIENTALES, FRANCE) From the terrace of his villa, a teacher, Roger Pons and his friend Mr Ciderac saw on the side of a mountain 250m away, a triangular object base 20-30m, height 80m. The milky-white object did not light up the area. After 30 secs. the light went out. It was followed by 3 or 4 flashed about 400m further up the mountain. For some seconds before the event took place the birds in the area had gone silent. No traces were found. (Bonabot — Le Courrier Interplanetaire 26, p.2 — Pons)

639(B) 19 August 1956 2200 hrs
OLONZAC nr MOUSSAN (NARBONNE, FRANCE) Railway employee Carmele Perez saw a luminous sphere emitting yellow reflections, it was travelling at low altitude and stopped 100m away from Perez, who was on his motorcycle. The phenomenon paced him for some time, before disappearing in the direction of the sea. (Bonabot — Courrier Interplanetaire 22, p.2)

640 Add the department Pyrenees Orientales. The case witness is the same as in case 553(A) above.

650 The correct date of this incident is 25th September. Add the following information "...It was black with a red circle around it. It took off with a spiralling motion, then went on an horizontal course and disappeared." Add the reference Bonabot — Courriere Interplanetaire 22, p.2 — Franc Tireur, 28 Sep 56)

664 1957

KALIMANTAN (INDONESIA) At a lake in the interior of Kalimantan, a Dayak fisherman saw a metallic object, 1m. diam. Smoke was issuing from its rim, and it made a strange, high pitched sound. As the witness came within 100m the machine rose at terrifying speed. (Brothers 1,2, p.36)

665 1957

BUCEGI MOUNTAINS (PRAHOVA, ROMANIA) Mizof

Pantilemon and three others members of a Land Registry Survey team observed a machine approach silently from 200m alt. It was green, oval and had a bright surface. It came very low; when the team approached to within 40-50m, the craft took off silently, "danced with incredible agility" over them, before disappearing. Pantelimon, who told this story to friends, thought he had seen a new secret helicopter. He died in 1963, and could not be questioned. (Hobana and Weverburgh Ib p.151 — Dumitru Ranciu)

666 13 January 1957 0330 hrs
BALFOUR (NEW ZEALAND) William West was standing in the doorway of his garage, 3km from Balfour, talking to Wallace Liddell, when they saw what looked like a shooting-star approaching from over a belt of trees, and descend to the ground. It was oblong, 35-40cms long, giving off a fluorescent glow. As the men rushed towards it, it changed into a sphere 45cm diam., glowing blue-white, with a dull, red glow at the centre, and jumped away from them. It continued to evade them, finally floating over a 2.4m high corrugated iron fence and disappearing across a paddock. (M386 + FSR 3,1, p.23 — Grey River Argus, 15 Jan 57 :: Flying Saucers CSI-New Zealand, 4,4, p.4)

667 16 January 1957 Morning
CAMPO QUIJANO (SALTA, ARGENTINA) A strange body was observed on the slopes of Cerro Negro. A boy, Abraham, saw a strange spherical object descend slowly over the hill. Through binoculars a Mr Angel Reals saw that it had an oval shape, and a polished metal surface which glared brilliantly in the sunlight. This was seen by many people for some 7 hours, until cloud descended over the hill. (Heiden — Petrowisch — CONDOVI Bulletin 1957 — dispatch out of Salta :: FSRCH 12, p.9 — Oscar Uriondo — ARG CAT 2(7) — Rietti & Vogt, 1959)

668 2 (or 9) February 1967 2200hrs
NEAR RIDGEFIELD (COLORADO) Mrs Ina Salter was driving home to Ridgefield on this cold, moonlit night, from visiting her daughter. She turned off Redding Glen Rd. onto Route 33 (the Georgetown road), a very desolate area. As she drove up a hill she came across an object which had been hidden by trees. In her surprise she took her foot off the gas, and the car almost came to a halt. The object was cigar shaped, without wings or fins, suspended just above the ground about 4m to the left of the road. Along its side were 3 or 4 portholes illuminated by a yellowish light, through which the movement of shadows could be seen. On the bottom of the machine was what looked like an opening through which the same yellow light was coming. This grew smaller, as if a door was sliding too. As the car drew alongside it, the machine rose to treetop height, then sped away horizontally. The light from the object had been brilliantly reflected by the road reflectors. (Olsen 3-51 + M387 — APRO Bulletin, March 1962 — Harvey Courtney)

669 15 February 1957

ROCHDALE (GREATER MANCHESTER, ENGLAND) Mrs M Ashcroft was looking through a window at Birch Hill Hospital when she saw something a ball of fire on a hillside. It began slowly to rise, and was seen to be a white, disc-shaped object, with alternate red and white lights on the underside. It moved very slowly and very low towards Littleborough. It was also seen by three other patients, Mrs Hill, Tysoe and Mondle. (DIGAP files — Mrs M Ashcroft)

670 15 February 1957 2200 hrs
WARDLE, NEAR ROCHDALE (G.M., ENGLAND) Gwyneth Fitton was walking along a lonely lane near home when she saw a white-glowing circular object just above a hillside. Below this was a second, smaller, sphere alternating between red and white. She called her mother, Dorothy Fitton, who saw the object gliding toward the top of their house, only a few meters away from them. The object descended then ascended again, disappearing over a hill. About 15 other people also saw the event from other locations. There were confused official investigations, and allegations of a government cover-up. (MUFOPB, 2,3, p.31 — Flying Saucers CSI New Zealand — Rochdale Observer, 23 Feb & 27 Feb, 2 Mar & 9 Mar 57 :: FSR 3,3, p.5 — Clifford Thornton)

671 21 February 1957
LONGREACH (QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA) While driving along the Winton Rd. 13km from Longreach, Charles Kingston and two passengers in the back of his truck were started by an oval object about 3.5m long, which passed quite close overhead. It stopped, shot forward about 100m, then stopped again. It repeated this several times before it went out of sight. (FSR 2,3, p.6 :: Round-Up p.127)

672 Spring 1957
KROTZ SPRINGS (LOUISIANA) while driving between here and Lebeau on HW 71, Messrs Heitman & Beard realised they were being followed by a red light, 15m behind them and about 3m above the road. Heitman thought it was a police car, before seeing that it was a discoid 1.2-1.5m diam. 45-60 cm. thick, glowing red. It pursued them for 8km at speeds of up to 150kph, before rising to 30m and accelerating away to the left. (Barry Greenwood — APRO, Nov 1964, p.4)

673 8 March 1957 Night
BAUDETTE (MINNESOTA) A pilot saw a circular object flying against the wind. It was luminous, about 5.5m diam. and so low that it appeared to suck up the snow (M388 — Keyhole IV)

674 23 March 1957
PUYALLUP (WASHINGTON) An object was observed at low level. Witness: Guise. No details at present. (Table of American Landings)

675 23 March 1957
MARACAIBO LAKE (VENEZUELA) Luis Petrera and several others saw a glowing object plunge into

the lake..The authorities dragged the lake, but nothing was found. (Lor III, p 51)

676 23 April 1957

PENRITH (CUMBRIA, ENGLAND) James Emmerson (45) was driving a high-explosives tanker from Hull to Dumfries, when about 50km south of Penrith he saw a reflection on the windscreen. There was no other traffic to account for the light, so stopped and dismounted. Hovering above him was a yellow, Half moon shaped object, with a gold rim, and a straight edge on top (FSR 3,3, p.2)

677 14 April 1957 1500 hrs

VINS SUR CARANY (VAR, FRANCE) Two ladies of this village, Mrs Garcin and Rami, were walking on Rt. D-24 near a chateau, when a deafening metallic sound made them turn round. A few dozen meters away, at the junction of D-24 and the Vins road, was a metallic contraption, hemispherical on top, conical below. The conical part consisted of a sheaf of multicoloured luminous rods in rapid motion. One of the metal rod signs was vibrating in apparent resonance to them, making the noise that the ladies had heard. They screamed out, and 300m away on the other side of a hill, municipal council worker Louis Roglio, hearing the row, thought that there had been a car crash. He ran to the scene and saw the object, which was at ground level. It then hopped over another road sign, which also began to vibrate; it descended, perhaps landed 200m further on, then hopped into the air again, moving at moderate speed. The object was estimated to be 1-1.5m high, 1m max. diam. The signs were later found to be magnetised. (Michel IIB - Jimmy Guieu & Raymond Veillith :: Vallee III IIB - Veillith :: Carrouges B P.322 :: Cramp II, p.220 :: M389)

678 19 April 1957 1150 hrs

JAPANESE PACIFIC The Bosun and four other crew members of the Japanese fishing boat Mitsu-kawara maru observed two approximately disc shaped wingless machines dive into the ocean at 143.30 N, 31 15 E. After the object submerged there was a violent turbulence. No wreckage was found. (FSR 3, 4, p.15 :: Round-Up p 147 :: Trench II, p 102 :: Vallee Ib, p. 136 :: M390)

679 22 April 1957 1300 hrs

PALALDA (ORIENT, FRANCE) Mr & Mrs Pirmin Rasou heard an unusual noise and saw a 'whirlwind' of flames 10-15m above ground, coming down toward a vineyard. It was red and blue, spinning wildly flying slowly. It hovered for 5 mins. over some plants, which shook violently. Then it flew away south with a deafening roar, hovered again and then departed SE. Its diam at the top was about 5m (M391 - Ouranos, no. 21)

680 May 1957 0450 hrs

WINKLEIGH (DEVON, ENGLAND) Mr J Payne was driving a bulk milk carrier from Weston-super-Mare Avon, to Torrington, Devon. He stopped at the edge of a deserted wartime airfield at Winkleigh to have a flask of coffee. He noticed an object at the end of a runway which resembled a submarine. It was the length of an airliner and 9m high. It

had two large tail fins, was metallic, and emitted a fluorescent blue glow. As he walked to within 150-200m of the machine Rayne felt restrained by a force which felt "like walking into a cushion". At this point the object rose silently to 350m, then moved away NW, going in front of a hill and some trees. As it took off the witness felt a sense of relief "as if a weight had been lifted from me", and was able to walk to the spot where it had been. There he found a 15m circle of black powder like burned carbon. Another person saw the object on the ground, and several others saw it in the air, but none of them reported the matter. Pegasus 2,3, p.2 - Toft - Fowler :: FSRCH 8, p 16)

681 1 May 1957 0700

BAJAS BLANCAS AIRPORT (CORDOBA, ARGENTINA) A resident of Cordoba was motorcycling towards Rio Ceballos when at a point 16km from the airport his engine stopped. As he dismounted he saw a huge disc-shaped machine hovering 15m above the road. It was 18m diam. 5m high. The terrified witness hid in a ditch. After a few moments the object descended to 2m alt., hovered again making a sound like escaping air. From the bottom of the machine a lift descended, carrying a man 1.7m tall, who stepped down, looked at the vegetation, then approached the cyclist, helping him to his feet. The being reassured him by gestures and persuaded him to enter the craft. The being wore a close fitting plastic 'divers suit'. Inside the craft were six identically dressed beings each seated in front of a panel. The witness also saw windows, which were not visible from the outside, and a dull phosphorescent glow. The tour over, the occupant conducted him out via the lift. As they walked away from the craft he saw that it had a blue-green iridescence. The engine of the motorcycle had now recovered, and the being examined it with interest, before departing with further gestures. After a delay the craft rose to 750m and sped off to the NW. (FSR 11,1, p 19 - Bowen :: FSR 11,4, p.23 - Gallindez :: Humanoids p 35 - Creighton - Diario de Cordoba, 1 May 57)

682 10 May 1957 2245 hrs

BEAUCOURT SUR ANCRE (BOMME, FRANCE) Michel Pekete (29) a Hungarian WW2 refugee, railway worker was cycling home on the Miraumont-Beaucourt road. Turning a bend he was blinded by a strong light, round which he could see 4 human-like silhouettes, less than 1.5m tall, barring the road. Fearing an ambush he fled to the home of signalman Rene Lepot & wife, who were in the kitchen with Mr & Mrs Rene Ikief. Turning out the lights they saw a luminous object on the road 50m away, 30cm alt. giving off a brilliant light alternating red and white. By this light they saw men 1.2-1.5m tall with very large heads, moving haltingly to and fro, in beige-grey clothing. After 29 mins railwayman Mr Demanchaux joined them. A car passed and the light went out, though the figures were still visible in the headlights, motionless by the road. After the car passed the light reappeared, dimmer, above the road. It rose quiddly to the NE at 45° disappearing by 2315. A 4.5m circle of asphalt was found at the site. (Michel IIB, p 211 - Michel + Ouranos 21 - Marc

THE DANISH 'AIRSHIP' OF 1908

WILLY WEGNER

Throughout the years 1896 and 1897 unknown airships were seen over North America by thousands of people, although their origin has never been satisfactorily explained. These airships have now become part of the U O myth, and are considered to be the starting point of the phenomenon in the USA. However, sightings have been made in other places, notably England (1) and New Zealand in 1909.

UFO sightings are a global phenomenon, and generally speaking, the reported activities of the UFOs are similar throughout the world. I was interested to find out if this also applied to the airship sightings, and it was with faint expectations that I began researching in 1975 to see if there was a Danish equivalent of the North American wave. Whilst going through old Danish newspapers I arrived at the time of the Tunguska episode in 1908, when a supposed meteorite exploded over the Siberian tundra. Here I found my first trace.

In the newspaper Thisted Amtstidende for July 7th 1908 there appears under the heading "Mysterious Phenomena" a short account of some reports of a dirigible operating over the Vendsyssel at night (See box). The report also stated that a burning, balloon shaped object had been seen over the island of Fünen. I followed the story up by searching through other newspapers that covered the Vendsyssel area in 1908.

The first mention of the phenomenon appears in the Vendsyssel Tidende and the Aalborg Amtstidende for June 30th. Mr Bye-Jørgensen, an accountant, was watching the evening sky from his villa in Hasseris. At 22.50 hrs an object like a large bird caught his eye. He brought his binoculars, and saw through them that it was a large, long object like an airship. He estimated it to be about 30 kilometers away, at an elevation of 30 degrees. At one point, when it was possible to see the object straight on, something could be seen protruding from it, which was taken to be some sort of motor or steering equipment. During the half-hour that the object was visible it passed behind a cloud for a moment, before disappearing in a north-westerly direction. Bye-Jørgensen afterwards insisted that the object had moved against the wind. His maid was also a witness to the observation.

Both newspapers wanted the matter to be investigated further. Other people in various towns in the Vendsyssel were asked if they had seen

anything. As a result, a man from Hjørring reported a bright light in the southern sky at 21.30 hrs on 29th June. The light was very intense, and at first he had thought it to be fireworks, but said it was too high in the sky for that, and had stood still for a while before disappearing. "It could have been the lanterns on an airship," wrote one of the newspapers.

There were others who had seen something that night. Mr Wibroe, a factory owner from Nibe told the following story to the Aalborg paper on July 2nd:

"At 22.25 hrs I was sitting looking out of my window. Over Øland, between Højskoven and Østerby, I saw a large object about the size of an eagle. Through my binoculars I could see two wings, but in about ten minutes it disappeared from view over Jammer Bay. Three other members of my family also saw the airship."

At 23.00 hrs the airship was seen by a farmer's son from Nørhøne. He saw it flying northwards, and said there was a kind of 'aura' around it. Something was seen by two labourers in Røbling, about 7km. south of Aalborg. One of them described it as like a "large stork soaring in the air." They both agreed it could have been an airship. They had it in view for about twenty minutes. It was also seen further north-west. The nearest witness was probably Jakob Kirkeskov. He saw it between 22.00 and 23.00 hrs. It was only about 130 meters away from him, in a northwesterly direction. He claimed to have seen an antennae at the front of the object, as well as wings on the side.

On the 3rd July, the Vendsyssel Tidende reported that they had received a letter from a W Wolff from Kraghede School at Tystrup. Along with his wife and another couple they had seen an odd, dark shape in the evening sky. They had seen it in the direction of Rubjerg Lighthouse, and had first thought it to be an odd shaped cloud, but then thought it resembled an odd shaped bird. It disappeared from view after a quarter of an hour.

On the 4th July, the same paper published a letter, datelined Gammel Skagen, 3rd July 1908. "To the Editor..."

You might be interested to know that the airship, mentioned in Tuesday's edition of your honoured paper, was also seen at Skagen by Dr. Mestergaade and the chemist in Skagen, as well as by Peter Christian Petersen from Gammel Skagen...

At about midnight on the night of Saturday/Sunday, the doctor pointed out a dark object to my informant Petersen. It seemed to change shape regularly, and gave out two beams of light, one down to the water and the other upwards (2). About half an hour earlier the chemist had seen the same object out over the sea to the north. Two other men saw it after midnight, disappearing in a northerly direction.

The witnesses were not aware that it could have been the airship. It was only

when they read of other observations in your newspaper that they realised the object must have been the airship. The change in shape could have been due to the object's motion. The beams of light had the same characteristics as a light projector."

The newspaper phoned Dr. Mestergaard in Skagen. He confirmed the observation, adding that he had seen a very strong silvery light showing for about a quarter of an hour. The newspaper then regarded it as proven that there had been several successful flights of a dirigible airship of an advanced type which was able to fly against the wind.

Naturally there was great speculation as to where the unknown craft had originated. Count von Zeppelin's craft was quickly excluded, because, as a newspaper wrote: "It could not have come this far up without warning over the electric telegraph". In July 1908 von Zeppelin was with the airship LZ4. Its flight is exactly charted, from Friedrichshafen, via Schaffhausen, to Lucerne Zürich and back to Bodensee, a trip of about 300 kilometers. Von Zeppelin had another airship, the LZ3, it was built in October 1906, and undertook several successful flights. It was later handed over to the German Army, and was first laid up in 1913. I have been unable to establish an alibi for it for 29th June 1908, so until further notice this possibility remains.

But there were others, besides von Zeppelin who had built airships in Germany. The airship Gross-Baesnach I, in which the German major Gross made an ascent had crashed in the treetops of the Grünewald Forest. August von Parseval had built his first airship in 1906, and by 1908 both his airships PL2 and PL3 must have been airworthy. One of the greatest flights mentioned in connection with the PL2 was on 15th September 1908, when the airship travelled 290 km. in 11 hours from Berlin. Two French airships were also operating in 1908, the Republique and the Ville de Paris. The former made its maiden flight on the 24th June from Moisson. The Ville de Paris made its longest trip on the 15th January 1908; 238 kms. from Verdun to Sartrouville-Valay. It was then in the workshops being rebuilt, not emerging until October 1908 as the Ville de Paris II.

The theory that it was an English airship was popularly accepted at the time. The British fleet had planned a large exercise in the North Sea, and Esbjerg and Skagen had received naval visits. I have tried to examine this possibility in detail. I wrote to the Air Force Library and asked for information about the Vendsyssel airships. I wanted to know if it was possibly the English dirigible Nulli Secundus II. They were unable to give me any information concerning Vendsyssel, but sent material which proved it could not have been the Nulli Secundus. The trial flight of this craft took place in July 1908, and lasted only 18 minutes. In the middle of August it went out of commission. There was only one other English airship aloft in the crucial period, the Beta. It was a very slow craft, and one of its more notable flights was from Farn-

borough to London and back in 1910, a distance of only 40 miles. I have been able to furnish more information to the (Danish) Air Force Library, who are also trying to find a solution to the problem.

The results of our combined efforts can be summarised as follows:

1. Many independent witnesses saw something, which they described as an airship, in the sky over the Vendsyssel area of Northern Denmark in June 1908.
2. There were no officially notified flights in that period.
3. It is established that there was no possibility of it being a British airship, as was generally supposed at the time.
4. An examination of the flight characteristics and known movements of other airships of that period make it very unlikely that a French or German vessel could have flown in secret to this part of Denmark.

This mysterious craft must for now be classified as an Unidentified Flying Object, although the possibility of it being an airship of German origin is being explored further by military sources in West Germany. Should any of my readers have any concrete information which could help towards a solution to the mystery, they are welcome to contact me

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- GROVE, Carl, The airship wave of 1902. FSR, volume 16, number 6, November/December 1970.
2. Searchlight-like beams of light feature in many of the 1897 and 1909 reports. They are not a feature of regular airship construction of the period. (JR)

John Keel, in an article in Flying Saucer Review (Vol. 16, number 3, May 1970) reports two other Scandinavian sightings of 1909. The first was on August 24th, when an unidentified airship circled twice over the Estonian capital of Tallinn, disappearing in the direction of Finland. According to the Swedish newspaper Dagens-Nyheter it so alarmed the local people that they demanded the formation of a "defensive air-fleet".

On the 24th September a "winged object" was reported over the Castle Forest near Gothenburg in Sweden, at an altitude of about 100 meters.

With the 1908-9 airships, the "Ghost Flyers" of the 30's and the mystery 'rockets' of 1946 Scandinavia is emerging as a major source of historical UFO reports. These reports are particularly interesting as they show almost to perfection the way in which the phenomenon mirrors the technology of the time we invite our readers in the Scandinavian countries to explore this new source of data, and communicate their findings to Willy at the address below. The pages of MUFOB are also open to their findings.

Fairies and Fireballs

Peter Rogerson

A Moravian fairy-tale communicated to GEPA, the well-known French UFO group, by a Mr Chaloupek, relates how, one day in the mid seventeenth century in the village of Chechy Pod Kosírem, near Prostějov, the village baker's daughter was delivering some milk-rolls to the castle. In a turning she met a strange little man who sprang up in front of her. He seized the three rolls, bit into one of them then spat it out in disgust. He did this with the other two rolls, before disappearing back into the woods. Shortly afterwards she saw a fireball rise up into the sky (1).

The little man was probably a water-nix, and there is surely some significance in the mystic three rolls. His rejection of the rolls acts as a mirror image of the traditional need to reject fairy food. Presumably the rolls are as tasteless to nixes as the fairy chocolate was to the unfortunate motorcyclist of Les Routiers (2).

"THISTED AMSTIDENDE"

JULY 7th, 1908.

From different areas of Vendsyssel have come reports in the past few days of a dirigible airship equipped with electric light projectors, which moved along the coast by Jammer Bay, and came inland several times.

The airship is only seen by night, but is nevertheless seen by many people, who give more or less fantastic descriptions of the sight. It is generally thought to be some sort of balloon experiment by the British Navy in Valbaek Bay.

This information is fully supported by Politiken's reporter in Fyn, who telegraphed the following story:

"Friday evening at half past ten a large vague, burning object shaped like a balloon was seen low over the southerly horizon from Odense. After some time the balloon divided into several parts, and it looked as if large areas of burning matter flew to all sides. Several observers immediately cycled in the direction of the sight, but it had disappeared. Hundreds of people saw the phenomenon, and are all agreed it must have been a burning balloon. Out in the country, no one has seen the phenomenon close to."

© 1977. Willy Wegner, Dansk UFO Center, PO Box 7018, DK-9200, Aalborg SV, Denmark. First published in Fortæna, the newspaper of the Scandinavian Fortean Organisation, published by Sphinx & Nihil, Vesterbrogade 139, DK-1620, Copenhagen. Translated by Annette Barford, ALA.

Fairies have been associated with fireballs in more recent times. One wild and stormy night in 1948 a shepherd was sheltering from the storm with his sheep, in a hut near Yaste Monastery near the town of Garganta la Olla, Spain. He heard voices outside, and on opening the door saw a small man, who he invited in. Only when the being stood warming himself before the newly lit fire did the poor shepherd realise that his visitor had a very devilish cloven hoof. He screamed in panic, and 'Pan' fled through the door. Only then did he see the fairy fireball ascending into the stormy sky. The poor man was now convinced that he had had a visitor from regions somewhat warmer than sunny Spain! He became a fervent churchgoer! (3)

This, incidentally, was not the first Magonia-inspired conversion in Garganta la Olla. Fourteen years previously, in October 1934, an old lady saw a strange being in a silver suit, and a voice "in her head" announced the birth of her grandson. As she ran towards this being it vanished. When she found the grandchild had indeed been born, she demanded he be christened 'Angel'. (4)

In view of the satyr-like qualities of the Spanish fireball fairy, it is significant that Hartland (5) mentions a Moravian tale of a bride

DENMARK



KEY: (1) Aalborg; (2) Thisted; (3) Esbjerg; (4) Nibe; (5) Skagen and Gammel Skagen; (6) Odense; (7) Jammer Bay. Vendsyssel is the northernmost island of Denmark, on which Thisted and the Skagens are situated.

who shuts herself up every eighth day. When her husband peeps through a keyhole, he behold her thighs clad with fur, and her feet those of a goat.

The classic case of a fireball fairy is that seen by children of Premanon, who in September 1954 (again on a rainy night) met a walking "sugar cube", one of the startled youngsters receiving an electric shock from this bionic boggart! As at Yuste Monastery, the fairy left in a luminous reddish fireball, which left marks on the ground including a fairy-ring of flattened grass (6).

The fairy fireball is perhaps the traditional will of the wisp, which is also said to signify the presence of fairies. I am sure that there are traditional stories of fairies seeking shelter from storms, though I cannot find any to hand. Perhaps one of our kind readers can help?

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3. Ballester-Olmos. Catalogue of Type I UFO reports in Spain and Portugal. Case 7.
4. Ballester-Olmos. *Op Cit.*, case 4.
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notes and quotes

According to reports which appeared in the Press on Sunday 27th November, and the following day, viewers of Southern Television in the Reading area had their 5.00 pm news bulletin interrupted by a series of bleeps, followed by the message: "This is the voice of Asteron. I am an authorised representative of the intergalactic mission and I have a message for the planet Earth. We are beginning to enter the period of Aquarius and there are many corrections which have to be made by earth people. All your weapons of evil must be destroyed. You must like together in peace - or leave the galaxy." Different papers gave slightly different versions of the wording.

The following Sunday, 4th December, the *Sunday Times* reported that it had tracked down a group of students who had made the broadcast with a low-power transmitter costing less than £80, using a technique which 'hitches a ride' on the more powerful transmissions of the TV stations own transmitter.

Readers of John Keel will note that the hoaxers seem to have done their homework in using the name 'Asteron', variants of which are common in contactee experiences. Two years previously the group had made a similar broadcast, claiming that President Amin of Uganda had taken over the BBC!

book reviews

We hope that many of our UK readers saw the notable BBC-TV special on 'ancient Astronaut' theories mentioned in the last MUF0B. A full review of this, and some recent books on the same topic, will appear in our next issue.

Also as one of our tenth anniversary features we would like to produce a 'top ten' listing of UFO books published over the past ten years. So please send us your own list of the best or most influential books on UFO related themes, which have appeared since 1968. There will be a prize for the reader whose list most closely corresponds to the general vote.

FLAMMONDE, Paris. *UFO Exist!* Ballantine, 1977. \$1.90 / 90p UK.

Flammonde is the author of an interesting social history of the UFO scene in America titled *The Age of Flying Saucers*, so the present book, which claims to be an 'authoritative history' should have been something worthwhile.

Sorry, but it is not; it is the same old rehash of Arnold, Mantell and all the other stories which we have heard *ad nauseam*. The author nit-picks over small differences in details between

A remarkably perceptive comment on the nature of UFO research occurs in the unlikely setting of an article in the *New Statesman*, by their chief political commentator, James Fenton: "Eric Gairy, the Prime Minister of Grenada, has asked the United Nations to declare 1978 the International Year of Unidentified Flying Objects and has asked for a department to be set up to co-ordinate research into this field. It is certainly an absorbing subject, and an unusual one. In most fields of enquiry, excitement increases as discoveries are made and appropriate explanations found. With UFOs, on the other hand, the aim of the research is to maintain the befuddlement of the mind; 'Eureka!' cries the UFO buff, 'I have discovered something I cannot explain.' The essence of the enquiry is that it should lead no-where."

Mr Fenton displays a remarkable understanding of our subject.

We are informed that the UFO news-clipping service operated by Rod Dyke in the USA, is now under the management of Lucius Farish. For details, write to him at: Route One, Plummerville, ARK. 72127, USA.

Jung's classic re-published

JUNG, Carl Gustav. *Flying Saucers; a modern myth of things seen in the sky.* Routledge & Kegan Paul, £2.75 (Paperback).

Jung's classic *Flying Saucers* is surely one of those books that is more talked about than read - certainly by ufologists. Partly this is due to its elusiveness in English editions.

What is startling on reading Jung today is just how much present thinking on UFOs he had anticipated by 1959. It is the more surprising when we realise that this study was a mere sidelight to Jung's great work, and is not regarded as particularly significant by today's Jungians. Like many "New Ufologists", he declares that the physical reality or otherwise of UFOs, spaceships or whatever, is irrelevant to a study of the interaction of flying saucers and percipients. It is this point that the 'Gradgrind Ufologists', obsessed with the physical sciences, find impossible to appreciate. They will dismiss such chapter headings as "UFOs in Dreams" and "UFOs in Modern Paintings", with scorn. It is only now, eighteen

years after the first publication of this book, that some ufologists are beginning to appreciate the subtlety of the phenomenon, and how it transcends arbitrary boundaries of dream, art, and reality. It is a measure of the sad lack of intellectual stature in the study of ufology, that one of the great thinkers of this century should have produced almost a definitive study of the subject, and it has been almost ignored.

A word of criticism of this edition. It is a straight reprint of the first English edition. It is a pity the publishers did not take the opportunity to add some introductory material to help place the book within the present context of the UFO phenomenon. In mitigation one must say, sadly, that it would be difficult to nominate anyone with the qualifications to do the job.

This is not an easy book to read, but it is essential to anyone hoping to understand the psychological implications of the UFO mystery. We are indebted to the present publishers for again making it available in an accessible edition.

(JR)

other authors' accounts of these old standards, and hints darkly at various conspiracies. Yet his own account of the Socorro case is wildly inaccurate, containing mistakes which do not appear in the sources he quotes. Another conspiracy?

One could read right through this book with out realising how complex is the UFO question. No CE3's, no parapsychological undertones, or anything to shake the ETH platform. Instead there is a chronology, containing low-grade LITS reports, and this marvellous first entry: "Prehistoric alleged references in Brahman tablets, Egyptian, Atlantean, Hindu, Pali, Inca, Aztec, and other unrecovered records." No comment!

The standard of accuracy of the British section of the list of organisation is the worst yet seen. BUFORA Journal is given FSR's old address; FSR and LUFORO (defunct) are given Nigel Stephenson's old address; and Contact UK another two old addresses. This book is now on sale in the UK. God help the postman!

(PR)

CONSTABLE, Trevor James. *The Cosmic Pulse of Life* Neville Spearman, £4.75. 1977.

One puzzling aspect of ufology is the question of why so many enthusiasts have such an insatiable appetite for pseudo-science rather than genuine science. Perhaps one reason is that science has developed so much in this century that scientists are increasingly forced to specialise, so that they know more and more about less and less, and thus get out of their depths when they tackle subjects remote from their own specialities.

This book is a feast for the pseudoscientist. The author constantly berates conventional physicists for their conservative, mechanistic "anti-life" attitudes. Some of his strictures are no doubt justified, but he spoils his argument by overstatement, and expounding alternative arguments which are patently ridiculous.

Mr Constable takes photographs of the sky using infra-red film, and obtains pictures with various light patches and dark blobs on them. Now these pictures, if genuine, are quite interesting. Possibly he has managed to record pictures of atmospheric turbulence. However, Mr Constable refuses to consider any rational explanations. Because some of the blobs which appear on his photographs bear a superficial resemblance to living cells seen through a microscope, the author comes to the conclusion that they are living organisms. And if anyone disagrees, let him be anathema!

In this book scientific problems are discussed from the viewpoint of the "new physics". This consists of a rag-bag of pseudo-scientific speculation culled from various crackpot sources, many of which contradict the theories held by more conventional physicists. For example, the second law of thermodynamics is not only "false" but also "neurotic" (whatever that may mean in this context) because it is contradicted by Wilhelm Reich's orgone accumulator which produces heat 'out of nothing'. (Perhaps Reich managed to capture and tame Maxwell's Demon?) The author also criticises those scientists who say there is no ether, arguing, as nineteenth century scien-

tists did, that "there cannot be waves without a medium for them to wave in. This argument is based on a false analogy. While it is possibly true, as Constable asserts, That "numerous scientists are conceptually unhappy with Prof. Einstein's etherless universe" and indeed Einstein himself said of the quantum theory "I look upon quantum mechanics with admiration-and suspicion" I hardly think that such people would, like the author, go to the other extreme of postulating not one ether, but four!

This book is recommended to all lovers of irrationality, pseudo-science, and paranoid fantasies.

(JH)

WORLD OF THE UNKNOWN SERIES. All about UFOs,
All about ghosts, All about monsters.
Usborne Books, 95p. each.

Although written for children, and using a largely pictorial presentation, these books nonetheless offer a more intelligent and level-headed approach to their subjects than many allegedly aimed at adults, and could safely be recommended to the casual reader of any age seeking a simple overview of their subject. All about UFOs offers brief descriptions of several of the classic cases (eg: Hopkinsville 1955, Socorro 1964) while at the same time pointing out that the great majority of UFOs are misinterpretations of normal events, and demonstrating with examples how easy it is to fake photos.

Not all the contents are beyond criticism. The section on UFOs in history consists of a summary of the claims of the ancient astronaut theories. Although the writer's attitude is sceptical they are still made to appear more central to the UFO mystery than they are.

The final section of the book relates UFOs to the question of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. It seems to assume that this is the only alternative to dismissing UFOs (although there are brief references to theories of UFOs from other dimensions or that UFOs are "created by the human brain like characters in dreams"). This is probably inevitable, since the ideas of the New Ufologies are not easily explainable to children.

However these are minor quibbles and the author is to be congratulated on steering a sane course through a subject beset with misinformation and inaccuracy.

The other two volumes in this series are also interesting. Both manage to avoid being simply compendia of "amazing stories" by putting the phenomena they deal with in context. The ghosts volume described the beliefs concerning death in different cultures, the techniques of psychical researchers, and fraudulent mediums; while the monsters volume relates creatures like Nessie and the Sasquatch to prehistoric creatures mythical monsters and recently discovered animals (although the 'Monaghela' dead sea serpent hoax is repeated). A worthwhile series. (RS)

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